GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:242
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2001
ENCOURAGEMENT TO HOMOEOPATHY
GOWDAR MALLIKARJUNAPPA;K.H. MUNIYAPPA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has the largest number of Homoeopathic practitioners and also the largest turnover of Homoeopathic medicines;

(b) whether Homoeopathy has gained immense popularity because it is relatively inexpensive and has no side-effects;

(c) whether the Union Government are taking some special steps to popularise Homoeopathy in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to help to set up Homoeopathic Centres throughout the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a)to(d): A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 242 FOR 8.8.2001

(a) to(d) There are 1,94,147 Registered practitioners of Homoeopathy in the country as on 1st January, 2000.Although no firm estimates of international turnover of homoeopathic medicines is available, India appears to have the largest market for homoeopathic medicines.

Homoeopathy has become popular because it is relatively inexpensive and has no adverse side effects.

A number of schemes are already under implementation to help develop and popularize the Indian Systems of Medicine including Homoeopathy. These include:

- Grant-in-aid Scheme for strengthening the existing Under Graduate colleges of ISM & Homoeopathy

- Grant-in-aid Central Scheme for Re-orientation of ISM&H personnel.

- Scheme for Upgradation of Departments of Homoeopathy Colleges for imparting Post Graduate Training and Research.

- Central Scheme for Development and Cultivation of medicinal plants.

- Central scheme for development of Agro-techniques of Medicinal Plants used in ISM&H.

- Extra-mural research scheme.

- Scheme for IEC (Information, Education and Communication).

Health being a State subject, the state governments establish hospitals and dispensaries depending upon their priorities and availability of financial resources. The Central Government has established several units which are conducting research under the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, an autonomous body under the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy, so as to identify improved treatments for a variety of diseases. In particular, the use of Homoeopathy in the treatment of behavioural disorders, respiratory allergies, skin ailments and children`s problems have been found to be significant. A National Institute for Homoeopathy has also been established at Kolkata.

The use of Homoeopathy is being popularized through increasing the availability of medicines through licensed pharmacies throughout the country and by informing the public about how common health problems can be attended to through the use of simple homoeopathic remedies.